

LOTS OF UNKNOWN FLORA.

New Insular Possessions Afford a Fascinating Field for Enthusiastic Botanists.

Much interest in the flora of our new island possessions is developing. In New York it seems likely to bear important educational fruit in connection with the new botanical gardens and museum recently opened in Bronx park. Directors of the gardens some time ago sent a member of their staff to Porto Rico with Professor Evans, to investigate certain phases of flora to be found in a stretch of gardens some time ago sent Percy Wilson, stay on the island was altogether too limited for any exhaustive collecting, he did succeed in getting a few fine palms and several examples of orchids to the institution, states the Philadelphia Ledger.

But the question arises whether this suffices. The American people are clamoring to know something more of the flora of the Philippines, Guam, Hawaii and Porto Rico.

With the possible exception of Hawaii there has been very little serious attempt at investigation and classification of the flora of our new possessions. Very little literature is available to the American student of to-day covering these fields, and for those confined to the English language there is practically no printed information whatever.

In the case of the Philippines the botanical literature is extremely meager, being limited to a publication bearing the title "La Flora de Filipinas," a work printed in Spanish by the Jesuit fathers resident in the islands. But it is in no sense accepted as an authority by accredited botanists, they saying that the text shows no evidences of individual research or close observation of the plants described.

This lack of literature and information is in great part explained by the antagonistic attitude of the Spaniards to exploration of the interior by scientists of countries other than their own. They guarded the islands jealously from alien intrusion, looking with suspicion upon all requests for exploring privileges and scientific research, putting annoying obstacles in the way of all who sought to enter their interior. Being languid and indifferent themselves, they troubled but little about the natural treasures that surrounded them.

But in the two years of American occupation of the Philippines enough has been learned of the natural history of the islands to warrant the prediction that they present an illimitable field for collection.

Writing of them in this connection, an educated native, who knows his country well, says that "these rich and multitudinous islands, seated in the midst of a tropical sea, form in reality a botanist's paradise, a region in which an ardent naturalist might browse for years and still have new treasures left to find."

And the same sentiment echoes through all the accounts related by returning sojourners in the islands. The wife of an American army officer stationed there, on a recent visit to the United States, says that while journeying through the forests in the islands, with their vast variety of plant life, the trees in many cases presenting a kaleidoscopic riot of color from the masses of orchids hanging from trunks and limbs, some odd and unique in appearance, many unknown to science.

Institutions in other countries are taking cognizance of the field here presented under new conditions, notably the Kew gardens, of England, which already have a representative collection in the islands.

But enough rifts of knowledge have broken through the dense cloud of public ignorance on the subject of our new possessions to have whetted the appetite for fuller information. So it looks very much as if, providing there be no appropriation at hand to carry out this work of collecting floral specimens there, we shall have to depend upon private gifts or endowments.

Even if this be so, the project should certainly appeal to those interested in the cause of general education (and that the study of botany is a useful and refining one no one can question), and having a patriotic pride in the advancement of our public museums and kindred institutions in Philadelphia, as well as in New York and elsewhere.

Horses Which Never Drink.

There are hundreds of horses and thousands of cattle in the Hawaiian islands which never take a drink of water throughout the whole course of their lives. On all the islands the upper altitudes of the mountains are given up to cattle ranges. Except possibly two or three months in the rainy season there are no streams or pools of water in any part where the cattle range, but everywhere there grows a recumbent, jointed grass known by the native name of Maninia. This is both food and drink.—London Globe.

Salubrity of Porto Rico.

Porto Rico is an almost perfect land as regards climate, and serious forms of sickness have been banished. It is a land where crops can be raised in almost all seasons, and there is scarcely any intermission in production.—N. Y. Sun.

THE TEST OF TIME.

Mrs. Clara J. Sherbourne, Professional Nurse of 257 Cumberland St., Portland, Maine, says:—

"I heartily wish those who suffer from some disturbed action of the kidneys would try Doan's Kidney Pills. They would, like me, be more than surprised. My back annoyed me for years. Physicians who diagnosed my case said it arose from my kidneys. When the grip was epidemic, I was worn out with constant nursing, and when I contracted it myself it left me in a very serious condition. I could not straighten nor do the most trivial act without being in torture. The kidneys were too active or the secretions were too copious, and I knew what was wrong, but how to right it was a mystery. It seems odd for a professional nurse, who has had a great deal of experience with medicines, to read advertisements about Doan's Kidney Pills in the newspapers, and it may appear more singular for me to go to H. H. Hay & Son's drug store for a box. But I did, however; and had anybody told me before that it was possible to get relief as quickly as I did I would have been loth to believe it. You can send anyone who wishes more minute particulars about my case to me, and I will be only too glad to tell them personally. As long as I live I will be a firm advocate of Doan's Kidney Pills."

Cure Confirmed 5 Years Later.

"Lapse of time has strengthened my good opinion of Doan's Kidney Pills, first expressed in the spring of 1896. I said then that had anybody told me that it was possible to get relief as quickly as I did I would have been loth to believe it. Years have passed and my continued freedom from kidney complaint has strengthened my opinion of Doan's Kidney Pills and given me a much higher appreciation of their merits."

A FREE TRIAL of this great kidney medicine which cured Mrs. Sherbourne will be mailed on application to any part of the United States. Address Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y. For sale by all druggists, price 50 cents per box.

Not in the Treatment.

Visitor (at lunatic asylum)—I see you provide your patients with pingpong outfits. Superintendent—No, we don't. They bring them with them.—Chicago Daily News.

Lipton's Nerve.

She—I always heard tea was bad for the nerves. He—Oh, it can't be; I see Tom Lipton says he's coming over again to lift that cup.—Yonkers Statesman.

Tom—"Our engagement is off." Dick—"You don't say, how's that?" Tom—"She got mad because I couldn't explain to her satisfaction why I loved her more than other girls."—Philadelphia Press.

EQUAL TO THE OCCASION.

An Invitation in Business Form That Met with an Acceptance in Kind.

A Baltimore woman, the belle of her set, was much surprised not long ago, says the New York Times, to receive an invitation of which the following is the substance:

"Mr. Blank presents his compliments to Miss Dash, and requests the pleasure of her company at the theater Thursday evening next.

"Awaiting and hoping for an early and favorable reply, we are, yours very truly, 'Blank & Co.'"

The writer of this remarkable effusion is a young business man who is a partner in a large furniture concern. He attends to a large proportion of the correspondence of the firm, and, of course, signs the firm's name thereto. So absorbed was he in business that he concluded his invitation with the stereotyped sentence above, and, to cap the climax, signed the firm's name to it. The fair recipient, however, appreciated the situation, and the young man was thunderstruck to receive a letter addressed to him personally, but containing the following reply to his invitation: "Messrs. Blank & Co.: Your favor of recent date to hand and contents noted. In reply will say we accept the proposition therein made and hold the goods ordered subject to yr. further instructions. Very respectfully, Miss Dash & Co." Explanations and apologies followed, and the invitation was duly accepted, but the matter was too good to be kept a secret, and for some time after life was made a burden to that young man. Even the meaningless query: "How's business?" sufficed to drive him frantic.

A Puzzled Housewife.

"Hello," called Mrs. Cookem, over the phone, "is this Mr. Sellem's grocery?" "Yes, ma'am."

"Well, you folks sent me a cake of patent plum pudding and a cake of imitation coal this morning, for me to try."

"Yes, ma'am. And did you wish to order some more?" "I don't know. You'll have to send some one down to explain matters. I've put one cake on the fire and the other in the oven and I can't tell whether the plum pudding smells come from the firebox or the pudding pan."—Baltimore American.

Only Death Is Sure.

"Dolly," said the sick Mr. Hyroller to his little daughter, "has it occurred to you that papa might die and go to heaven?" "No," replied the child, "because I asked the doctor that very question."

"And what did he say?" "He said: 'I don't think he will, although, of course, he may have to die some day.'"

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The race is not always for the swift, nor the money for the man who has a straight tip.—Judge.

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CATARRH THIRTY YEARS.

The Remarkable Experience of a Prominent Statesman—Congressman Meekison Gives Pe-ru-na a High Endorsement.



Congressman Meekison of Ohio.

Hon. David Meekison is well known not only in his own State, but throughout America. He was elected to the Fifty-fifth Congress by a very large majority, and is the acknowledged leader of his party in his section of the State. Only one flaw marred the otherwise complete success of this rising statesman. Catarrh with its insidious approach and tenacious grasp, was his only unconquered foe. For thirty years he waged unsuccessful warfare against this personal enemy. At last Peruna came to the rescue. He writes:

"I have used several bottles of Peruna and I feel greatly benefited thereby from my catarrh of the head. I feel encouraged to believe that if I use it a short time longer I will be fully able to eradicate the disease of thirty years' standing."—David Meekison, Member of Congress.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

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